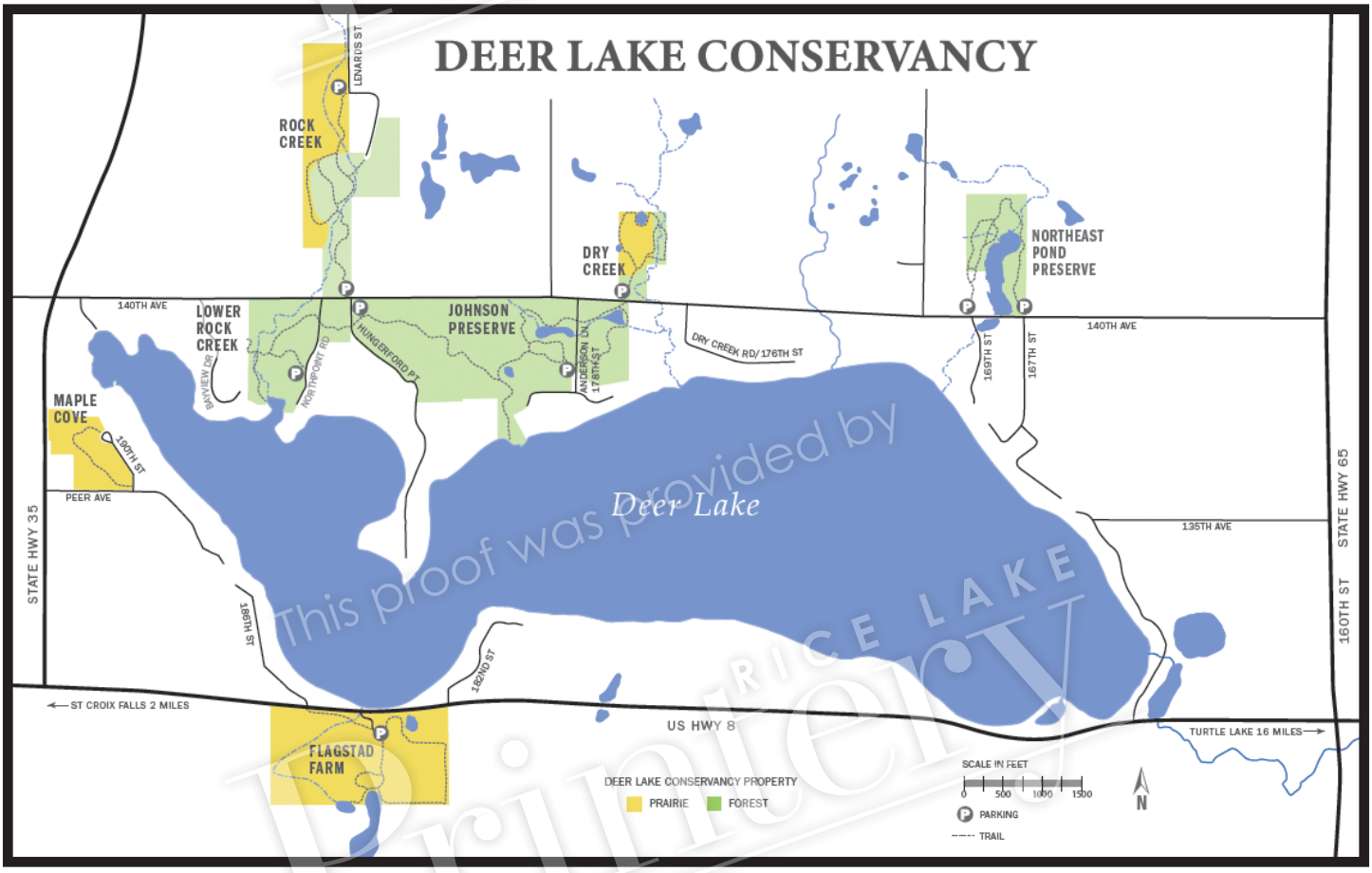
JULY 2025
SUMMER EDITION

DEER LAKE CONSERVANCY REPORT

Deer Lake Conservancy Trails

The Deer Lake Conservancy originally created trails through our properties to provide access to view conservation projects. Signs and brochures at the trailheads tell the story of where our projects are installed and the purposes they serve. In addition to providing access, the trails have grown into incredible recreational resources for lake owners and visitors. We encourage you to get out and enjoy our well-maintained, 6+ miles of trails. Member donations and trail crew volunteers support trail maintenance.



Deer Lake Conservancy Trails and Parking Areas

Our mission is to preserve Deer Lake and the surrounding land that contributes to its natural, scenic, and recreational value. Thanks to our generous member donors.
To join or make an additional contribution, go to: ***https://www.dlcwi.org/contributing***
or mail a check to: **DEER LAKE CONSERVANCY • P.O. BOX 1139 • ST. CROIX FALLS, WI 54024**
For more information, visit our website: ***https://www.dlcwi.org***

This proof was provided by Printery

New Trail Videos

If you are unable to get out on the trails, are away from the lake, or just want to see cool footage, new virtual video tours of the trails are available on our website.

Go to: ***https://www.dlcwi.org/conservation/major-projects/trail-maps/***

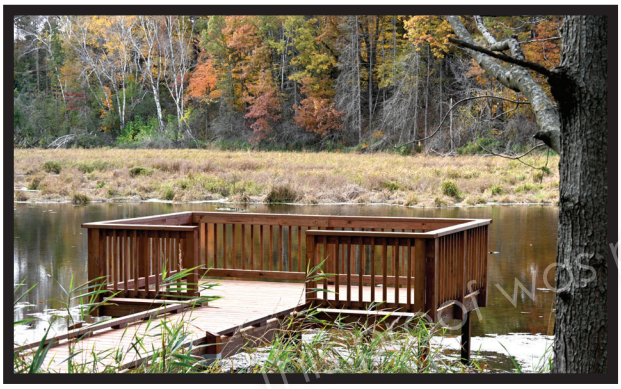
Video drone footage offers a wonderful opportunity to escape to the Deer Lake watershed woods and prairies. Thanks to Tom McBride for creating these videos of the Deer Lake Conservancy trails.

Scan the QR code with your phone to see trail maps and virtual tours!

Trail View Highlights

Boulders along Rock Creek Trail
We keep vegetation cleared here for a great view of these impressive boulders deposited by the glacier.

Rock Creek Springs from Trail Bridge
Water flowing in this spring has cleared considerably following conversion of upstream farm fields to prairie flowers and grasses. Prior to our restoration efforts, the stream was thick with algae.



Northeast Pond Preserve
The viewing platform offers an opportunity to see Trumpeter Swans and their cygnets who nest on the pond.

DNR and Foundation Grants

Your donations are used to match these DNR and Foundation grants.
Current grants to the Deer Lake Conservancy include:

Dry Creek Stabilization: $34,012 – Install rock/log checks to slow water flow and reduce erosion
Homeowner Projects: $41,877 – Install designed projects at 4 Deer Lake properties
Homeowner Design Assistance: $10,000 – Investigate and design the next runoff reduction projects
Buckthorn Control: $6,000 – Control buckthorn on Conservancy Preserves
Water Quality and Algae Study: $10,000 – Monitor lake water quality and algae, model results
Watershed Study: $10,000 – Identify effectiveness of projects and ID new priorities
Trillium Foundation: $10,000 – Maintain trails and invasive species on the Johnson Preserve

This proof was provided by DEER LAKE PRINTERY

Buckthorn Control

Common Buckthorn

Trail use and views are enhanced by removal of buckthorn which began in 2007. If you have undertaken buckthorn control on your property, you can understand the incredible amount of work needed to remove this invasive shrub.

Department of Natural Resources grants have supported our buckthorn control work for years, and we are pleased to announce that the Conservancy recently received another $6,000 grant for buckthorn control. Thanks go out to DNR Forester, Paul Heimstead, who helped us obtain grants over the years. Project Supervisor, Jim Miller, Lands Manager, Luke Lee, and trail crew volunteers will focus on buckthorn removal in the Rock Creek Conservation Area and Northeast Pond Preserve under this grant.

Buckthorn removal begins with treating then cutting the larger seed-producing specimens. Dead wood is burned when there is snow cover. Most large buckthorn have been removed from our conservation areas. We now focus on treating and removing medium-sized buckthorn before they are large enough to produce seeds. The Conservancy is grateful for the many hours our trail crew has donated to protect conservation areas from this invasive plant.

Homeowner Waterfront Projects

Look for more heron lawn markers around the lake as more projects to reduce runoff of nutrients and sediment and improve habitat around the lake are installed this year. New projects to be funded under DNR grants include rock infiltration, stormwater chambers, rain gardens, and rock ditch checks to slow water flow to the lake. Thanks to Pat and Sandy Corcoran, Jon Bartelt and Leela Rau, Robert Todd and Denise Sinclear, Jerry and Jan Carroll, and Tom and Constance Posch who are installing these projects on their properties.

We are also planning a large project to install rock/log ditch checks and floodplain benches on Dry Creek this year. The ditch checks will slow the flow of water and allow sediment to drop out. The floodplain benches will spread the flow and reduce erosion along the streambank. An ongoing watershed study identified Dry Creek as the top source of runoff, nutrients, and sediment to Deer Lake. Thanks to property owners Geoff and Sandy Bodeau for their support of this project.

Native plantings, natural shorelines, and projects to reduce runoff are highlighted with heron markers all around the lake with almost 60 markers distributed so far. An interactive map of the projects is found on the Deer Lake Conservancy web site homeowner projects page: ***https://www.dlcwi.org/projects/deerlake-herons/***

To request a site visit to learn more about how you can reduce runoff and improve habitat on your Deer Lake property or to get assistance with construction site erosion control, email Cheryl at ***harmonyenv@amerytel.net***

This proof was provided by Rice Lake Printery

Kids Walk and Learn Event: Bluebird House Building

Our next Walk and Learn Event is for the birds – and the kids. All ages are welcome, but the event might be most suitable for ages 4 and up. Kids should bring along an adult to support their efforts.

This free family event will be held at the Flagstad Farm on Saturday, July 5th starting at 10:00 am. You will learn about cavity nesting birds – especially the Eastern Bluebird – and how they interact with their habitat. Each child will have the opportunity to build or decorate a bluebird house based on individual ability. Once complete, kids can decide to keep their bluebird houses or post them around the Flagstad Farm prairie during a short nature hike. All materials will be provided by the Deer Lake Conservancy.

Pre-registration is required, and space is limited. Please respond to Cheryl (***harmonyenv@amerytel.net***) by July 1st to reserve your spot in the class. Include names and ages of children, names of adults, and your phone number.

DEER LAKE CONSERVANCY

2025 ANNUAL MEETING

TROLLHAUGEN CONVENTION CENTER

SATURDAY, JULY 12

Refreshments and Welcome, 8:30 am

Lake Association Business Meeting, 9:00 am

Conservancy Business Meeting, 10:00 am

2025 CONSERVANCY OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

Phillip Foussard, *President*
Jim Miller, *Vice President*
Tom Pesek, *Secretary/Treasurer*
Jay Becker
Mark Boyken
Tom Bradley
Rod Johnson
Tom McBride
John Patterson
John Wright

ANNUAL FLAGSTAD FARM CELEBRATION

Hosted by the Deer Lake Conservancy and the Deer Lake Improvement Association

Live music and refreshments at the Flagstad Farm
Saturday, July 26, 2025 • 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm
All ages and guests are welcome!

This proof was provided by Deer Lake Printery